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Broadway is reported to have had the driest Christmas eve it has known for years, but the northern fringe of the country was deluged considerably.

A good, old-fashioned January thaw in late December would be an acceptable condition in Vermont. Farming, industrial activity and human desire all need more water just now.

Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, deserter from the United States army and jail bird in addition, is reported to be headed for the United States after more than two years' sojourn in Germany. He's not just the kind we like to have in this country but we suppose we'll have to keep him—in jail.

General Pershing's Christmas greeting to disabled veterans of the World war will not get them anywhere as far as material advancement goes but it was couched in such language and in such evident sincerity of tone that it must hearten the disabled men very greatly. The greeting was well directed.

Warning against the use of candles for decoration of Christmas trees becomes a back number, now that a Christmas tree wired for electric lights became ignited at Worcester, Mass., causing the destruction of a house and one boy occupant. Proper wiring is even more necessary on an inflammable spruce than in permanent wiring in a house.

Incidentally, Santa Claus didn't forget the railroads of New England, by piling onto them more passenger traffic than they were able to handle with any degree of comfort to the hundreds of thousands of people who sought transportation. The Christmas holiday season is proving a bonanza for nearly every steam railroad line in New England.

Reported dying, Madame Sarah Bernhardt, the famous actress, now well started toward her 80th birthday, recovered and demanded to be permitted to resume stage rehearsals. Thus the report of her dying takes its place along with that "farewell tour" she is repeatedly making in the United States. May the "Divine Sarah" continue to grace the stage for a long time to come!

THE STRANGE OCCURRENCES IN LOUISIANA.

The dispatches from Louisiana, carefully worked at first, have finally become so specific in relation to the finding of two bodies in a lake near Mer Rouge that a serious condition of affairs is reflected. It will be recalled that a few weeks ago Gov. Parker of Louisiana visited Washington and had

secret interviews with President Harding and other officials of the government, after which the announcement was made that state jurisdiction covered any developments in Louisiana as far as known; and Gov. Parker went back home and made the statement that vigorous steps would be taken to restore established order of the law. The next development was the move to find the whereabouts of two men, who with others, had been kidnapped by a hooded band last August and who had not been seen since then although the other kidnapped men returned home but with strangely vacant memories as far as the details of the kidnapping were concerned. Presently two bodies, mutilated and with their limbs trussed together with wire, were found floating in the lake near Mer Rouge. Relatives and acquaintances of the two missing men declared the bodies were those of the men kidnapped. In the meantime several companies of the state militia had been sent to the scene, presumably to protect the officers of the law in the performance of their duties. A material witness, one who is said to have witnessed the kidnapping and to have recognized one of the hooded band when he lifted his mask to take a drink of water is being held under guard in a neighboring state—under guard to prevent anything untoward happening to him.

Through all this strange revelation runs the use of the name of Ku Klux Klan. No one high in authority has yet seen fit, so far as we have seen, to charge directly that the Ku Klux Klan was responsible for the crimes enumerated or for the murder of the two men. Yet the name of the secret organization clings to the stories of the developments from day to day. The hooded, robed band sizes up with the known mysticism of the organization. However, we fail to see in the acts as perpetrated anything that compares with the high-sounding purposes as enumerated in the tenets of the Ku Klux Klan. If there are sinister purposes in the organization and if acts of murder are encouraged or even condoned by the organization, then it is high time that the Ku Klux Klan be scotched and forever put out of business. The Louisiana occurrence has terrible features, which do not meet with approval of the sentiment of the vast majority of the people of the United States.

Why Green Leaves?

Leaves of a tree contain chlorophyll, which, in the presence of light and heat, changes mineral substances into plant food. Chlorophyll gives the leaves their green color. The cells of the plant that are rich in chlorophyll have the power to convert carbonic acid gas into carbon and oxygen, says the School Book of Forestry issued by the American Tree association, Washington. These cells combine the carbon and soil water into chemical mixtures which are partially digested when they reach the crown of the tree. The water, containing salts, which is gathered by the roots, is brought up to the leaves. Here it combines with the carbonic acid gas taken from the air. Under the action of chlorophyll and sunlight these substances are split up, the carbon, oxygen and hydrogen being combined into plant food. It is either used immediately or stored away for future emergency.

How It Went.

"What, more money? See here, young man, what has become of that last hundred I gave you—theatres, joyrides or what?"
 "No, dad. I've been playing bridge with mother."—Boston Transcript.

CURRENT COMMENT

Can He Come Back?

Will H. Hays' decision to reinstate "Fatty" Arbuckle as a screen comedian does not bind the public to receive him in the sunlight of its favor. Hays says in effect that the public may make the final judgment. How the public will react interests mightily the producers of Arbuckle films.

Arbuckle could lawfully hire a hall for a lecture, or he could stage a play with speaking parts, and the public could exercise its option to attend or stay away. No motion picture censorship board could intervene in such a case because the character of Arbuckle films is not in question; the problem concerns the private life of the actor, not his professional performance.

Mr. Hays has given Arbuckle his chance to come back much sooner than was anticipated. From a business viewpoint, "Fatty's" period of retirement might well have been more prolonged so that the memory of the scandal and the three trials in which he figured might have become less vivid. That Mr. Hays has acted too soon seems to be shown by the protests piling up across the continent. These indicate a wholesome moral sentiment in the soul of America and they forecast a verdict that will stand.—Springfield Republican.

Town Management.

St. Johnsbury folks are discontented with the way affairs in that town are managed. According to the Caledonian, taxpayers, residents and visitors are not satisfied, and they take it out by finding fault with the town's lighting system, its streets, schools, sidewalks, etc. When the topic of town management was taken up at a recent church brotherhood meeting in that town it aroused so much interest that some of the largest taxpayers, although not members of the church, attended and participated in the discussion. Strange to say, nobody defended St. Johnsbury's existing system of town and village government; all seemed to feel that there should be a change.

There seems to be objection to the city charter idea because it would be impossible to absorb the whole town, and there would be separate city and town governments just as there are now separate village and town governments. Hence, the idea of a town manager is finding favor in numerous quarters, and an effort is to be made at St. Johnsbury's annual village meeting this evening to choose a trustee favorable to that plan. It will be interesting to see what success the St. Johnsbury metropolis has in this direction. Brattleboro people have had the subject under consideration for some time; in fact, committees from the town, village and incorporated school district have been named to investigate and report on the matter of consolidation but so far as is known no meetings have been held.—Brattleboro Reformer.

The Aristocracy of Brains.

Dr. Hopkins, president of Dartmouth college, returns to the charge on his aristocracy of brains idea. In an address at a chamber of commerce luncheon in this city yesterday, he pointed out a great fact in the life of the world which modern criticism and the popular or democratic spirit seems inclined to ignore. This is that some of the greatest reforms in the world have been accomplished from above, and not as the result of the popular impulse. Dr. Hopkins instances the downfall of the system of serfdom in Russia and the abolition of slavery in the United States. He says that both of these reforms were accomplished by the intellectual aristocracy, and if his intellectual aristocracy includes also the moral aristocracy the statement is true. There was no slave revolt in America nor any rebellion of serfs in Russia. We read that those who would be free must themselves strike the blow, but generally they never strike it unless their arms are nerved and directed from above.

Dr. Hopkins no doubt finds another argument for his thesis in the present situation in Russia, where an infamous conspiracy established its power by exterminating or suppressing the



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The cloth is made by one of the best mills in the United States and by some "careless" dealers is placed in the important class.

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What Your Tailor?

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intellectual class, the "Intelligentsia," and where this conspiracy maintains its ascendancy still by preventing all opinion or expression except its own, and also by banishing the intellectual class or by starving and beating it into submission or silence. The people of Russia do not want bolshevism, but, like the serfs up to the time of Alexander II, they lack the initiative to act for themselves. Like the negroes of America and the West Indies before a little group of intellectuals in New England and old England took up their cause, the Russian people remain dully in a state of slavery. There, no doubt, they may remain until by hook or by crook a new intellectual movement gets under way.

There are plain people in this world, and their desire in the long run turns out to be good and progressive, but they never get their wishes until they are organized and impelled by just plain brains.—Boston Transcript.

Another Vermont City.

Management of local affairs is a subject of discussion in St. Johnsbury at the present time and the suggestion that the community should be organized as a city has been made. This is in accord with the tendency in the state. Newport and Winooski have recently set up shop as cities, and as a consequence two additional members have been added to the house of representatives in the general assembly. If people of St. Johnsbury want a city form of government the claim will be made and it will not be without merit, that it is as much entitled to that status as Newport or Winooski, or other places of the same relative size. That the membership of the house will be increased will not be recognized as a factor of any importance.

Yet, to the people of the state, it is important. Our house is altogether too large as it is. Instead of a steady increase there should be a reduction, although it seems idle to talk about it, as the obstacles to overcome are such as to make them paterfamilias insurmountable. Those who are not in sympathy with the enlarged membership probably might as well keep their mouths closed. The tide certainly is against them.

It is an open question whether the city form makes for any better government, or so good, as the town system. Many people in some cities wish that they had retained the old form instead of saddling themselves with the baggage of a city, baggage which it costs to carry and is not productive in any substantial sense. The element of change is attractive in this day and generation, but St. Johnsbury has a reputation for sanity of judgment and The Messenger would not be surprised if the people of that community held to their present arrangement.—St. Albans Messenger.

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WAITSFIELD

Funeral of Mrs. Caroline Boyce Held Saturday.

The funeral services of Mrs. Caroline Boyce, the widow of the late Seth Boyce, was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Boyce Saturday afternoon. Rev. J. C. Hazleton officiating. Interment was in her family cemetery lot in Waterbury. The bearers were four nephews, Leslie Hilla, Arthur Boyce, Perley Boyce and George Boyce. Mrs. Boyce was a woman beloved by all. Since the death of her husband she had her home among her nephew and nieces and always found a warm welcome from all. She had lived in Waterbury, but the past two or three years she has been in Waitsfield.

The relatives who were not able to come so far for the funeral met the procession at the cemetery to pay their respects to "Aunt" Carrie, as she was lovingly called by all her relatives. Those from away to attend the funeral in Waitsfield were Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Hill from Duxbury, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Boyce from Fayston, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Boyce from South Duxbury.

Christmas exercises were held at the Methodist church, at which both churches united for the celebration. Two trees were filled with candy bags and popcorn balls and presents for the children of the community. A cantata, "A Christmas Mystery," was presented by the Sunday school scholars.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Wallis, entertained on Christmas day Mrs. Wallis' father, G. A. R. Bragg, Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Robinson and family from Warren, Miss Mary Northrup and her mother and two sisters from Burlington.

The regular meeting of the Community club will be held on Wednesday evening. It has been arranged to have for speaker Col. Fred B. Thomas of the state tax commissioner's department, who will speak on state taxes. Mrs. J. D. Davis will have charge of a half hour of the entertainment, which will be devoted to current events. The musical program has been arranged by Mrs. J. C. Kingsbury. Everyone will be welcome, whether members or not of the club.

Mrs. E. F. Coursey of Lincoln came Saturday for a few days' visit among her old neighbors.

Miss Annie Buckman went to her home in Woodstock Saturday for the school vacation.

Miss Lavone Skinner is home from Burlington.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Nelson from North Fayston spent Christmas with their daughters and husband, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. O'Brien.

Lydia Nelson, from Fayston has been spending the past week with her sister, Mrs. O'Brien.

Lytle Bennett and Bernis Kaiser of the greyhound staff spent Christmas at their home in Stowe.

G. H. Whitcomb who has been visiting at V. C. Pierce's, returned to Essex Saturday.

Mrs. Ethel Pierce returned Saturday night from a few days' stay in Richmond, Mass.

David Mills came home Saturday night from Troy, N. Y.

Miss Louise Gleason is home from Montpelier for the next two weeks.

Miss Annie Dale from Montpelier spent Sunday and Monday at her home in this village.

Some of the young people who have arrived at their homes from the different school and colleges in the past week are Mary Bettie, Edith Tucker and Louise Livingston from the teacher training school at Randolph, Ruth Joslin from Northfield, Mass., Lydia and Alice Blalock from Boston University, Guy Savage from Rutland Business school, Boston, Donald Moriarty and Andrew Baird, Clifford Wallis, Edmund Boyce from the University of Vermont, Melvin Livingston, Ormon Tucker from Middlebury college.

School Notes.

Some of the visitors in school last week were Guy Savage, Ormon Tucker, Edmund Boyce, Harold Palmer, Donald Moriarty and Clifford Wallis of the class of '22 W. H. S., and Everett Wallis of the class of '18, W. H. S., also Martin Elsworth from Stowe. Mr. Elsworth was a guest of Miss Brady at W. C. Bragg's Friday.

The orchestra of the high school gave a dance in Warren last Tuesday night, at which the orchestra furnished music.

The eighth grade had a Christmas tree Friday afternoon.

The sophomore class gave a humorous play, entitled "A Box of Monkeys," Thursday evening, which netted them about \$10.

The home economics class has begun to serve hot lunches twice a week at noon.

All schools in town closed Friday afternoon until Jan. 8.

Prin. Howard Abbott is spending the two weeks' vacation at his home in Wilton, N. H. Miss Northrup, Miss Brody and Miss Hammond are at their homes in Burlington; Miss Orton in St. Albans, Miss Powers in Waterbury and Beverly, Mass. Miss Maxwell at her home in Irasville and Miss Corlies at her home on the east hill.

Evasion.

Wife—John, with everything so high, do you think you ought to smoke cigars any longer?
 Hub—Why, yes, my dear—twenty or thirty puffs longer, and in future I shall make it a point to do so.—Boston Transcript.

Which Was Right?

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25c Club	Deposit 25c each week—in 50 weeks you have	\$12.50
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